

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 220909Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5805

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 3509

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, SN

SUBJ: NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT

REFS: A. SINGAPORE 3112; B. SINGAPORE 3395; C. STATE 178439

1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH GOS FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM JULY 21 I ASKED IF HE HAD ANY ADVANCE INFORMATION CONCERNING CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES WHICH MIGHT ARISE AT COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT (PRIME MINISTER LEE KUAN YEW AND RAJARATNAM WILL BOTH BE PRESENT). WITHOUT GOING INTO SPECIFICS, RAJA INDICATED THAT HE DID IN FACT EXPECT CONSIDERABLE CONTROVERSY.

2. RAJA MAINTAINED THAT THE USSR WAS GOING ALL OUT TO TURN SUMMIT INTO A SOVIET SHOW, I.E. TO MANIPULATE PROCEEDINGS VIA SUCH STRONG SOVIET SUPPORTERS AS CUBA, ALGERIA, AND LIBYA
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SO THAT RESOLUTION EMERGING WOULD BE STRONGLY CRITICAL OF THE

U.S. HE RECALLED THAT LAST NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT IN ALGIERS HAD BEEN THE SCENE OF A SIMILAR EFFORT, BUT THAT PRINCE SIHANOUK HAD BROADENED THE ATTACKS ON THE U.S. TO EMBRACE THE USSR AS WELL; THIS TIME, HOWEVER, SIHANOUK WOULD NOT BE PRESENT AND SOVIET SUPPORTERS WERE THUS UNLIKELY TO RUN INTO OPPOSITION. THIS WOULD CAUSE THE PRC CONSIDERABLE UNHAPPINESS, HE SAID, RECALLING THAT PEKING'S POSITION, AS EXPRESSED DURING PM LEE KUAN YEW'S VISIT TO THE PRC, WAS THAT IF ONE SUPERPOWER WAS ATTACKED THE OTHER SHOULD BE AS WELL.

3. I ASKED RAJA IF HE THOUGHT THAT TITO MIGHT BE ABLE TO EXERCISE SUFFICIENT INFLUENCE TO DAMPEN DOWN CONTROVERSIAL ELEMENTS. HE REPLIED THAT YUGOSLAVS WERE ATTEMPTING TO STRESS THEMES OF UNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, BUT MIGHT FIND THEMSELVES UNABLE TO HOLD DOWN DISCORD. HE POINTED OUT THAT IN ADDITION TO EFFORTS BEING MADE BY PRO-SOVIET ELEMENTS TO DOMINATE THE PROCEEDINGS, IT COULD BE ANTICIPATED THAT MANY DIVISIONS WOULD ALSO SURFACE AMONG THE AFRICAN ATTENDEES.

4. I REMINDED RAJA THAT THE U.S. CONTINUED TO FEEL VERY STRONGLY ABOUT CERTAIN ISSUES, NOTABLY KOREA AND PUERTO RICO, AND SAID HE WOULD BE HEARING MORE FROM US ON THIS SCORE PRIOR TO THE SUMMIT OPENING. HE EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT WE COULD EXPECT MUCH TO HAPPEN IN OUR FAVOR, AND NOTED THAT THIRD WORLD SUPPORT FOR THE THEME OF "NATIONAL LIBERATION" WOULD BE CONSIDERED ALMOST AUTOMATIC.

5. RAJA COMMENTED THAT SECURITY AT COLOMBO MIGHT TURN OUT TO BE A REAL PROBLEM, WHAT WITH DELEGATIONS POURING IN FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD. HE HAD HEARD THAT FOR THIS REASON CUBA'S CASTRO WOULD BE ARRIVING ON HIS OWN SHIP WHICH WOULD REMAIN ANCHORED SOME MILES OFF THE SRI LANKA COAST; CASTRO AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF HIS DELEGATION (WHICH COULD NUMBER AS MANY AS 240 PEOPLE) WOULD RETURN TO THE SHIP AT NIGHT FOR SAFETY.

6. RAJA ALSO EXPRESSED SOME DOUBTS ON THE WEIGHT THAT THE SUMMIT WOULD ULTIMATELY BE ABLE TO CARRY IN WORLD AFFAIRS. HE NOTED IN THIS REGARD THAT LESS THAN HALF OF THE DELEGATIONS WOULD BE LED BY A CHIEF OF STATE OR HEAD OF GOVERNMENT.
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7. COMMENT: GIVEN THE RESERVATIONS RAJARATNAM EXPRESSED ABOUT THE NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT, QUESTION CAN BE ASKED WHY SINGAPORE PLANS TO ATTEND AT ALL, AT LEAST AT HEAD OF GOVERNMENT LEVEL. PRESUMABLY LEE KUAN YEW WANTS TO KEEP HIS CREDENTIALS IN GOOD ORDER WITH NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT, AND I ALSO CONTINUE TO SUSPECT THAT YUGOSLAVS ASKED HIM TO GO TO COLOMBO TO ADD TO TITO'S LIST OF MODERATE (OR RELATIVELY MODERATE) BACKERS.

INCIDENTALLY, FROM RAJA'S REFERENCE TO PRC UNHAPPINESS OVER
SOVIET INFLUENCE AT THE SUMMIT, I BELIEVE THAT THIS MUST HAVE
BEEN ONE OF THE SUBJECTS DISCUSSED BETWEEN THE SINGAPOREANS
AND UN UNDERSECRETARY TANG MING-CHAO (WHO UNDOUBTEDLY REPRESENTS
PEKING'S INTERESTS) WHEN TANG TRANSITED SINGAPORE RECENTLY.
HOLDRIDGE

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